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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Distribution
Washington 25, D. C.

ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. 1 February 25, 1944.

TO: Fruit and Vegetable Branch - Washington and Field Employees and Regional Offices

FROM: C. F. Kunkel, Acting Chief, Fruit and Vegetable Branch

Fresh Marketing Division

A Cabbage Diversion Program to facilitate the use of southern cabbage for kraut, developed by the Fresh Marketing Division, was made effective February 19. With the winter cabbage crop the largest on record and civilian supplies of sauerkraut at their lowest levels in history, the Diversion Program will encourage packers to process into sauerkraut up to 50,000 tons of cabbage as a means of conserving food and supplying the civilian demand for kraut.

The current winter cabbage crop of 483,600 tons is 44 percent above the previous record harvested production in 1942 when more than 97,000 tons of cabbage remained unharvested because of poor market conditions. Current prices to growers have been at very low levels and it is believed that the program will contribute much toward stabilizing prices.

Under the program the WFA will help defray transportation costs up to $16.00 per ton for Florida, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina California and Arizona cabbage processed into sauerkraut by packers. Payments are necessary to help equalize the added cost of transportation in moving the cabbage from producing areas to other sections of the country where major kraut packing plants are located and at the same time enable packers to sell kraut processed from this cabbage at existing ceiling prices. Packers must pay growers at least $15.00 bulk per ton for cabbage loaded fob shipping point. The rate of payment will be determined on the basis of bids submitted by packers stating the amount a packer requires as reimbursement for the transportation cost of cabbage in order to permit him to sell the sauerkraut within his price ceilings.

Apples. Processing of apples for the season has been completed in the Shenandoah area; processing is practically completed in California; a small quantity is still being processed in Western New York; and considerable quantities are still being processed in the Northwest. The Army has completed approximately 70 percent of the expected purchases of apples set-aside under the provisions of FDO-88.

Carl G. Wooster, Chief.

Regulatory Division

More Small Dealers Now Subject to Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act Licenses. Many small dealers who formerly were exempt from license under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act are now subject to license. Under the regulations as revised May 15, 1943, if the total daily purchase of fresh fruits or vegetables that have been received in interstate or foreign commerce amount to one ton or more, even though the purchases are made in smaller quantities from several dealers, these dealers are required to be licensed. Previously, they became liable for a license only if the individual purchases were as much as one ton. No longer can persons escape liability through shopping around and buying small lots from several dealers. Apparently, many are not aware of this change. The change resulted from a revision of the definition of "wholesale or jobbing quantities" which now means "quantities of produce of not less than one ton in weight per day."

T. C. Curry, Chief.

Market News Division

Temporary Market News Field Station List

Station	In Charge	Product	First Bulletin
Brawley, Calif. Planters Hotel Bldg.	J. A. Hunter	Lettuce	Dec. 16, 1943
Grand Rapids, Mich. 413 P. O. Building	R. E. Keller	Onions and Potatoes	Nov. 4, 1943
Idaho Falls, Idaho 206 Federal Bldg.	R. G. Risser	Potatoes	Sept. 20, 1943
Lakeland, Florida 216 Citrus Center Bldg.	H. F. Willson	Citrus	Oct. 18, 1943
Plant City, Fla. State Farmers Market	R. M. Peterson	Strawberries & vegetables.	Feb. 7, 1944
Pompano, Florida State Farmers Market	F. S. Nightingale	Vegetables	Dec. 20, 1943
Presque Isle, Maine Federal Building	S. W. Russell	Potatoes	Sept. 22, 1943
Rochester, New York 300 Terminal Bldg.	A. L. Thomas	Fruits and vegetables.	Aug. 25, 1943
Sanford, Florida State Farmers Market	D. R. Hall	Celery	Jan. 10, 1944
Waupaca, Wisconsin Court House	M. W. Hanson	Potatoes	Sept. 1, 1943
Weslaco, Texas (Miss) Rm. 4, Metzger Bldg.	L. N. Gillespie	Citrus Vegetables	Oct. 21, 1943 Nov. 15, 1943

NOTE: This address list will not be carried in every issue but changes will be shown from time to time.

C. D. Schoolcraft, Chief.

Fresh Products Standardization and Inspection Division

War Approved Seed Potatoes:
The Office of Price Administration order MPR-492 establishing maximum prices for seed potatoes permits a premium of 50 cents per hundred pounds for War Approved Seed Potatoes over U. S. No. 1 Table Stock potatoes. The order defines War Approved Seed Potatoes as seed potatoes grown, inspected, approved and tagged or labeled as being of such class pursuant to the laws and regulations governing the official certifying agencies of the State where grown; provided, that the standards therefor as established by each State have been filed with and approved by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as meeting minimum Federal requirements for such class.

Anticipating this order, many States made provisions during the past growing season for the production of War Approved Seed Potatoes, and in accordance with the Office of Price Administration order they have submitted their specifications to the Department for approval. This approval has been given to the specifications for War Approved Seed Potatoes filed with us by the following States: Calif., Colo., Iowa, Ky., Maine, Mich., Minn., Neb., Nevada, N. H., N. Y., N. J., N. D., Ohio, Ore., S. D., Utah, Vt., Wash., W. Va., Wis. and Wyo.

There is necessarily considerable variation in requirements adopted by the various States for this class of seed potatoes but all of them require field inspection for diseases by the State Certifying Agency and also inspection at time of shipment by Federal or Federal-State inspectors or a qualified representative of the State Certifying Agency to see that the potatoes meet the requirements for disease, size and quality.

All containers must be marked or tagged "War Approved Seed Potatoes" and show the name and address of grower or grower's number and name and address of the State Certifying Agency.

A survey made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics indicates that there will be 12,620,571 bushels of War Approved Seed Potatoesavailable for planting this spring.

Anticipating that this program may continue another year, the Department of Agriculture Seed Potato Committee is working on specifications for the 1944 crop with the idea in mind of securing as much uniformity as possible in the requirements submitted by the various States.

E. E. Conklin, Chief.

Processed Marketing Division

The Processed Marketing Division has announced a support program to certified processors of the major canned fruits and vegetables and dried fruits. The support program is in the nature of an offer to purchase from certified processors, at 90 percent of net civilian ceilings, all offerings of canned peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, snap beans, sweet corn, green peas, beets, tomatoes, tomato juice, tomato pulp, tomato paste, carrots, lima beans, and

Processed Marketing Division
(Cont.)

spinach, and dried apples, apricots, pears, peaches, prunes, and raisins. Appropriate adjustments to area averages and for grade differentials will be announced for each commodity at the time the Office of Price Administration issues 1944 ceilings.

The support for most commodities will probably be at 90 percent of area average net civilian price or 90 percent of the individual net civilian price, whichever is lower. Such commodities as very small whole canned beets, small size peas, lima beans, and snap beans, and special or fancy packs will be supported at prices for common commercial styles. The offer to support the price of these processed foods will extend throughout a normal marketing season for each product and packers may be required to store commodities sold under the support program at their expense until 30 days after expiration date of the offer, in the event the Office of Distribution does not have immediate use for the product.

New canned foods industry advisory committees have been established along commodity lines to assist the Processed Marketing Division and the Division of Price in the Office of Price Administration in completing price and purchase programs for each major canned fruit and vegetable packed in 1944. As rapidly as time permits, these committees will be called to Washington to complete plans for the production of each commodity for an immediate announcement.

A small group of the Fruit and Vegetable Branch personnel has been set up as a committee to study ceiling price structures for fresh fruits and to recommend designated prices for fruits for processing. All field representatives who have information from growers or processors which would be helpful in this work are urged to submit such information promptly to us.

John E. Dodds, Chief.